

REMARKS

Claims 124, 126-136 and 138-168 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 87-123, 169-171 and 173 are cancelled. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 124, 126-136, and 138-168.

Rejection of Claims 169-171 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 169-171 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grandprey et al or Goebel et al in view of either Lahti or Cole. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, claims 169-171 are cancelled. The rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/031,084

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


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